

FOR YOUR INFORMATION!

Please Post

Activity: Fire Chiefs' Meeting

Date: February 26, 2009

Organizations Represented: Public Safety Administration
Department 1/Rocky Mount Fire
Company 3/Ferrum Fire
Company 4/Glade Hill Fire
Company 5/Callaway Fire
Company 8/Fork Mountain Fire
Company 9/Burnt Chimney Fire
Company 10/Scruggs Fire
Company 11/Smith Mountain Lake Fire

Organizations Not Represented: Company 6/Snow Creek Fire
Company 7/Boones Mill Fire
Company 12/Hardy Fire
Company 13/Cool Branch Fire
Company 14/Henry Fire

TOPICS OF DISCUSSION: Please find below a summary of the topics that were discussed and relevant information regarding those topics. If you have any questions, please contact your Rescue Captain or Fire Chief for details.

- The meeting was moderated by Public Safety Director, Daryl Hatcher. Mr. Hatcher opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their attendance.
- This was a special called meeting of Fire Chiefs with the expressed purpose of discussing the statewide 4:00 PM burning laws. Neil Brooks and Travis Rivers of the Virginia Department of Forestry were in attendance as invited guests.
- Due to some confusion regarding enforcement of the 4:00 burning law, this meeting was held to determine how Franklin County Fire Companies would respond to and handle reports of persons having a controlled open burn prior to 4:00 PM during the time frame of February 15 to April 30 of each calendar year. In the past, there was **NO** open burning allowed prior to 4:00 PM during this time frame, however, more recently the Department of Forestry has allowed open burning during the banned time frame as long as it is currently raining steadily or has been raining in the last 24 hours, enough to make inflammable material non-combustible or incapable of spreading fire.

There was much discussion about how to handle these situations and many different ideas and opinions voiced; however, the outcome of the meeting is that whenever a fire department from Franklin County is requested to respond to a report of a brush fire or controlled burn, the fire will be extinguished if the conditions warrant as determined by the fire official on scene. At any time, a fire company from Franklin County is requested to respond to a control burn prior to 4:00 PM during the specified time frame; the fire will be extinguished regardless of any weather conditions present at the time of response. Any questions regarding the handling of these types of response should be directed to Bennie Russell.

- The group talked briefly about the implementation of a required burn permit for any and all outdoor open burning. There was much discussion on how this would be implemented and enforced. The discussion was noted and more information about this topic will be made available in the coming months.

Meeting adjourned.